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Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Bolivia (Plurinational State of):* draft resolution

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements[1] and of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),[2]

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as well as relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/30 of 25 July 2014 on human settlements, adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2014,

Recalling its resolutions 64/207 of 21 December 2009, 65/165 of 20 December 2010, 66/207 of 22 December 2011, 67/216 of 21 December 2012 and 68/239 of

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum).

[2] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6).

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27 December 2013, which addressed the convening in 2016 of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),

Reaffirming the outcome document, entitled "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[3] in particular paragraphs 134 to 137 on sustainable cities and human settlements, in which, inter alia, it is recognized that cities are engines of economic growth which, if well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies,

Recognizing that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[4] and the Habitat Agenda,[5] challenges remain, such as the rapid urbanization process in large parts of the developing world, the continuing increase in the number of urban slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation on human settlements, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, and the increasing vulnerability of urban settlements to natural and human-made disasters,

Reiterating its support for the World Urban Forum and recognizing that it is the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Colombia and the city of Medellín for hosting the seventh session of the Forum from 5 to 11 April 2014, which was attended by more than 22,000 persons from more than 140 countries,

Recalling paragraph 9 of resolution 68/239, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to mobilize the expertise of the United Nations system as a whole, including the regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, for the Habitat III preparatory process,

Recalling also the commitment of Member States and the efforts of other stakeholders to promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements,

Emphasizing the importance of the wide participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, in the promotion of sustainable urbanization and settlements,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda[6] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);[7]

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[3] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

[6] See A/68/328.

[7] A/68/332.

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on its first session, and endorses its recommendation that the second session of the Preparatory Committee be held from 14 to 16 April 2015;

3. *Recalls* resolution 68/309, in which the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group would be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, and calls upon UN-Habitat to continue its contribution to the development of the post-2015 development agenda in order to provide expert advice on sustainable urbanization;

4. *Continues to encourage* giving appropriate consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Notes* the holding of the Climate Summit in September 2014, and, given the importance of cities in mitigating and adapting to the consequences of climate change, recognizes the key role of UN-Habitat in coordinating the support of cities and mayors through the Compact of Mayors and in initiating programmes that can bring rapid benefits to developing countries, and encourages member States to support these initiatives;

6. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Ecuador to host the Conference, and decides that the Conference will be held in Quito from ____ to ____ 2016;

7. *Decides* that the Conference shall be composed of six plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and six high-level round-table sessions to be held concurrently with the plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing plenary meetings, and that multi-stakeholder segments, side events and other events shall be held during the same hours as the plenary and the round tables and shall constitute an official part of the Conference;

8. *Recalls* its decisions in resolution 67/216 on the objective and results of the Conference, and decides that the third session of the Preparatory Committee shall be held in ____, for a period of five days during the seventieth session of the General Assembly in the months of April and May 2016, to complete the preparatory work of the Conference;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for effective coordination between the preparatory process for the Conference and the preparations for the summit to be held in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, in order to promote coherence and to minimize duplication of effort, and invites the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee to prepare the draft outcome document of the Conference based on inputs from broad regional and thematic consultations among all stakeholders and circulate it no later than 15 January 2016;

10. *Encourages* Member States to participate at the highest possible political level in the Preparatory Committee and the Conference itself and to give appropriate consideration at the national, regional and local levels to a new urban agenda and commit to defining it, together with all relevant stakeholders;

11. *Recalls* resolution 24/14 of 19 April 2013 of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat on the inputs and support required for the preparatory process for the

United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to be met by regular budget and voluntary contributions, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to provide adequate funding for the biennium 2016-2017 for Habitat III, with a view to ensuring a solid resource base for the Conference;

12. *Expresses concern* about the fact that there were no funds available for the participation of developing countries in the first session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III;

13. *Urges* Member States and international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions and foundations, to continue to support the national, regional and global preparations for Habitat III through voluntary contributions to the Habitat III trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in meetings of the Preparatory Committee and in the Conference itself, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 13 of resolution 67/216;

14. *Urges* international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee and in the Conference itself, and especially to ensure the availability of funds for the effective participation of developing countries in the second session of the Preparatory Committee;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to mobilize the expertise of the United Nations system as a whole, including the regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations for the Habitat III preparatory process, in order to continue to reinforce the secretariat;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the effective participation of local Governments and all other stakeholders in the preparatory process and the Conference itself and, inter alia, to expedite the preparations of Habitat III national reports and their submission to the Habitat III secretariat no later than December 2014;

17. *Also calls upon* Member States to continue to include in their planned regional meetings, such as the regular sessions of regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development, as well as of other relevant regional intergovernmental meetings, discussions on Habitat III, so as to facilitate the provision of regional inputs to the preparatory process for the Conference;

18. *Decides* that the major groups and the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council must register in order to participate;

19. *Also decides* that non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council wishing to attend and contribute to the Conference, and whose work is relevant to the subject of the Conference, may participate as observers in the Conference as well as in the preparatory meetings, in accordance with the provisions contained in part VII of Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and subject to the approval of the Preparatory Committee in

plenary meeting, and that, while respecting fully the provisions contained in rule 57 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, such a decision should be made by consensus;

20. *Notes with appreciation*, as reported by the Secretary-General in his report submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/239,[8] that the discussions among stakeholders gathered at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum provided, inter alia, an important contribution to Habitat III and that in those discussions it was recognized that Habitat III was a unique opportunity to develop a new urban agenda that could contribute to harnessing urbanization as a positive force for present and future generations and to advancing the quest for equity and shared prosperity;

21. *Takes note* of the Medellín declaration, adopted at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, in which Governments, the private sector, international organizations, academia, professionals, civil society and other social actors reaffirmed the importance of cities in sustainable development;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General of the Conference to include the eighth session of the World Urban Forum in the Habitat III preparatory process in order to enhance active participation and effective contribution by all relevant stakeholders;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue to provide, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, all appropriate support to the Secretary-General of the Conference and to the work of the preparatory process and the Conference, while promoting inter-agency support to the maximum possible extent;

24. *Invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund and the technical cooperation trust funds, and invites Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the development of the additional capacity required for the implementation of new priorities in the strategic plan for the period 2014-2019, especially cities and climate change, urban land and legislation, urban design, urban economy, renewable energy for cities and sustainable urban transport, as well as disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation;

25. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to continue efforts to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability in supporting the implementation of its mandate;

27. *Recognizes* that, over the years, the responsibilities of UN-Habitat have increased considerably in their scope and complexity and that, in addition to its original mandate, the requirement to provide substantive and technical support to

[8] A/69/298.

developing countries has increased in a number of new areas related to sustainable cities and human settlements, as reflected in its strategic plan for 2014-2019, especially cities and climate change, urban land and legislation, urban design, urban economy, renewable energy for cities and sustainable urban transport, as well as disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation;

28. *Underlines* that UN-Habitat should be provided with secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions to fulfil its mandate for the timely and effective implementation of its strategic plan for 2014-2019, and requests the Secretary-General to address the allocation of adequate resources for the Programme in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for effective follow-up, monitoring and implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019;

29. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States and Habitat Agenda partners to formulate and implement sustainable urban development policies that promote just, resilient and inclusive cities, considering the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, and with a particular focus on the needs of women and those who are most vulnerable, including children and youth, older persons, persons living with disability, rural to urban migrants, internally displaced people and indigenous peoples;

30. *Requests* Member States to promote the role of urbanization as a transformational force for achieving and advancing sustainable national development, as highlighted by the Economic and Social Council at its first integration segment;

31. *Also requests* Member States to adopt an integrated approach to sustainable urbanization and human settlements that engages all key stakeholders, including local authorities, in order to produce innovative solutions to foster economic, environmental and social sustainability;

32. *Calls upon* Member States to take into account the interlinkages among the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable urbanization and human settlements in the formulation of policies, plans and programmes at the local, national and international levels;

33. *Requests* Member States to implement, through appropriate urban planning and design policies, sustainable transport systems that focus on accessibility and on how to bring people and places together, including public transport and non-motorized modes of mobility;

34. *Also requests* Member States to integrate equity into sustainable urbanization policies in order to address adequately the structural problems and challenges of poverty and inequality facing many cities;

35. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an update on progress made in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);

36. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".